SPAWN®

THE DARK AGES

image®

5 OF 6 APR

DIGITAL EDITION

COVER A

SHARP

LLAMA

SPAWN®

THE DARK AGES

image

5 OF 6 APR

DIGITAL EDITION

COVER B

SHARP

SPAWN®
THE DARK AGES

SCRIPT/PLOT
LIAM SHARP

ART
LIAM SHARP

COLOR
LIAM SHARP

LETTERING
ANDWORLD DESIGN

COVERS
LIAM SHARP - COVER A
TONY PARKER (WITH STEVE CANON) - COVER B

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
TODD McFARLANE

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
THOMAS HEALY

Publishing Coordinator
YVETTE ARTEAGA

Production Artists
RYAN KEIZER
ZABRIEL KENNEDY
IMANI DAVIS

Publisher for
Image Comics/
Chief Creative Officer
ERIC STEPHENSON

SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE

PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN: THE DARK AGES*

A King betrayed, his lover attacked, and the Erlking left for dead.

Spawn: The Dark Ages #5. April 2026. Digital Edition. Published by IMAGE COMICS, PO BOX 14457, Portland, OR 97293 USA. Spawn, its logo and its symbol are registered trademarks © 2026 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All other related characters are TM and © 2026 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. The characters, events and stories in this publication are entirely fictional. With exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc.

image
TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS
McFARLANE.COM

ADAPTED FROM *'COMMONITORIUM'* BY ORIENTIUS, 430AD

'WHO OPENS THE SKY, FLEES DEATH, AVOIDS THE ROUGH, RUNS ON THE PATH OF THE HAPPY, AND LEARNS THE WAY? FOR WE, DEFEATED BOTH BY THE VICES OF THE FLESH AND BY TIME, TREAD AN EARTHLY PATH, OR A JOURNEY OF PAIN:

AND THESE ALONE ARE MIXED WITH THE JOYS OF A WISH, IF, WHAT WE DO NOT DO, AT LEAST OTHERS DO; SO THAT NOW, THAT WHICH WE IMMEDIATELY ESCAPED, LIVES IN THE AGE OF THE UNFAITHFUL, CAUGHT UP IN ALL THE TEMPTATIONS...'

LATER TIMES WOULD HEAR TELL OF HOW LORD ERLKING ULEGRAVE WAS THROWN INTO THE GUTTERS, A VAGABOND KING, TORMENTED BY THE AGONIES OF HIS DEATHLESS STATE...

OF HOW HE STAGGERED THEN, STRICKEN, THROUGH OLD WINCHESTER, HEWING CLOSELY TO THE SHADOWS, AND OF HOW HE STUMBLED 'PON THE DEAD BODIES OF PAGANS, SO LONG IN HIS CARE, NOW MURDERED, AND OF HOW, TOO, HE SHED GREAT TEARS OF ANGER AND REMORSE.

MY KING...

MY LOVE...

WHO DID THIS?

NO...

A THOUSAND... DEATH'S COULD NE'ER BREAK OUR BOND, SWEET, AURELIANUS...

I...

DO NOT LEAVE ME.

PLEASE!!

AND MAYHAPS 'T IS SO, THAT THERE WERE THOSE THAT NIGHT FOR WHOM SLEEP SELDOM VISITED, THAT HEARD THE DREADFUL ***THIN*** RASPING OF HIS PLAINTIVE CALL, HIS MOST ANGUISHED BESEECHING TO THE MOTHER OF ALL--

DANU!

I AM BUT A SHADE THIS NIGHT!

BLESS ME WITH STRENGTH ANEW THAT I MAY DO THY BIDDING!

FORGET NOT THINE ***WRETCHED*** SON, OH MOTHER!

FORGET NOT THINE SERVANT, FOR WE ARE BOTH ***BETRAYED!***

GOOD KING!

AURELIANUS...

IS SHE...?

DEAD?

IS IT THAT WHICH YOU ASK ME?

AS I SEE BLOOD UPON YOUR FORM.

HAD YOU A HAND IN THIS, ATILIUS?

I'LL NOT LIE TO YOU, MY KING.

NOT FOR CONSCIENCE, THOUGH IT WEIGHS AS LIKE AN OXEN CART 'CROSS MY BACK.

THOUGH IT SHAMES ME, THE BLOOD I WEAR IS MY OWN, AND SHE DRESSED ME IN IT.

NO, I DID NOT HARM HER, BUT NEITHER DID I PREVENT IT...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

DID YOU LET THIS HAPPEN?

I DID, MY KING.

THOUGH I WAS SENSELESS.

KENTIGERN PLOTS WITH THE SAXON KING, AND HAS WORKED TO SET YOUR OWN PEOPLE AGAINST YOU.

I DIDST NOT STOP HIM, FOR I WAS AFEARED YOU YOURSELF HAD BETRAYED THE LORD, OUR BLESSED GOD!

KENTIGERN LEFT BEHIND A BLOODY SWORD IN MY CHAMBER--NO DOUBT BUT TO IMPLICATE ME...

I...

AM ERLKING...

I SERVE...

...ONLY YOU, DANU!

OOOF!

THE PRIEST DID THIS, AND YOU LET HIM?

YOU, MY BROTHER?

YOU, MY MOST TRUSTED GENERAL AND DEAREST FRIEND?

YOU ARE THE KING, WHOM I SERVE, AND YOU SERVE THE KINGDOM, MY LORD.

I DID WHAT I NEEDED IN SERVICE OF THAT, AND OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD...

GIFT ME...

...YOUR ESSENCE, MOTHER!

LET US BE...

...WHOLE...

UHN.

MY KING, I'LL NOT FIGHT YOU.

THOUGH THE SEAS FLOOD CHRISTENDOM ANEW AND CAST THE SONS OF NOAH ADRIFT IN A SECOND GREAT ARK, STILL I'LL NARY RAISE A HAND IN ANGER OR DEFENSE.

I DID NOT KILL HER.

BUT IF IT SERVES YOU BEST TO BLAME ME, THEN TAKE MY LIFE.

I'LL NOT DEFEND IT.

I'LL NOT BE
DENIED MY RIGHTFUL
VENGEANCE!!!

IF I MUST DIE THIS DAY, THEN FIRST HEAR ME, GOOD KING:

I DO LOVE THEE, IF 'T WERE NOT SO THEN ALL MY LIFE'S A MOST HOLLOWED THING.

AND I, A PARIAH IN IT, BOUND ONLY FOR PERDITION.

BUT YOU FIRST BETRAYED ME, AND MY LOVE, DEAR BROTHER!

FOR NO LOVE CAN THERE BE GREATER THAN THE LOVE OF THE CHRIST!

AND YOU FOUND IN THE HOLLOW CIRCLE OF HER ARMS A LOVE FOR THE CORRUPTED GRIMBALD WAYS OF PAGANRY!

YOU DESERTED ME, MY KING.

AND FOR THAT MY FORGIVENESS HAS WANED, AND STARVED, BEREFT OF ANY HOPE THAT YOU MIGHT FIND YOUR WAY BACK TO US...

UGHHH--
SHKK

MY HEART HAS BEEN BROKEN TWICE THIS NIGHT.

AND I DID LOVE THEE SO, ATILIUS, NO MATTER THE GODS YOU SERVE.

FOR ONCE I KNEW A PROUD FORMER-SLAVE, WHOSE MAKER WAS A DISTANT MOUNTAIN SQUATTING VAST AND AGELESS BENEATH AFRICAN SKIES, LONG BEFORE THE VIRGIN'S SON FOREVER CLAIMED FEALTY.

BUT WITHOUT YOU...

OH, SEE YOU, HOW THE SUN HAS SET ETERNAL?

ONLY A FOREVER OF DARKNESS EXISTS FOR ME NOW.

DANUNNOS, MY SWEET LOVE...

DANUNNOS...?

IS SHE...

GONE FROM US? AY, SHE HAS LEFT US.

NO-

YOU THEN---
ARE NO LONGER MY KING!

OUR PACT IS BROKEN!

I DON'T... CARE WHAT YOU DO TO ME, ERLKING.

BUT I DID NOT...DO THIS...

MAYBE NOT WITH YOUR OWN HANDS, TRAITOR!

BUT YOUR PEOPLE ARE KILLING MINE ANEW.

THEY TURN AGAINST YOU.

YOU HAVE LOST THEM ALL, AND THE BURDEN FOR THAT IS UPON YOU, AS IS HER DEATH...

...AND THAT I WILL NEVER FORGIVE!

HOLD!

STEP YE BACK.

ALL IS... NOT AS IT SEEMS...

I SHOULD HAVE DONE A BETTER JOB OF KILLING YOU...

DON'T TOY WITH ME, OAK-KNOWER!

YOU STOPPED ME FROM GOING TO DANUNNOS...

ALLOW ME THE RIGHT TO JOIN HER SO I MIGHT...

SILENCE! SHE YET LIVES!

BUT, SHE'LL NEED CARE, THE KIND NONE IN THIS REALM CAN OFFER HER.

AND INDEED, SHE MAY NEVER FULLY RECOVER, BUT...SHE LIVES.

I... DON'T UNDERSTAND...

THAT IS RIGHT...

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, AND NEITHER COULD YOU.

GREATER POWERS THAN YOU SHALL EVER KNOW SHAPE THIS LAND, THIS WORLD...

WE ARE ALL THEIR AGENTS.

MERE *PUZZLE* PIECES ON AN ANCIENT BOARD.

BUT DANUNNOS...

SHE HAS PLAYED A ***GREATER,*** MORE KNOWING, PART IN THIS THAN MOST.

SHE MADE A SACRIFICE FOR DANU, FOR THIS KINGDOM, AND FOR EACH OF US.

BOTH DEATH AND REBIRTH RESIDE IN HER.

SHE WAS A LIVING SIGIL, THE EMBODIMENT OF ALL THAT HAD TO COME.

COME NOW, IF YOU ARE THE MEN I BELIEVE YOU TO BE YOU'LL PUT ASIDE YOUR DIFFERENCES, AND HELP ME HERE...

"...FOR WE DO NOT HAVE LONG..."

"...AND *SHE* DOES NOT HAVE LONG..."

To Be Continued...

SPAWN CROSSOVER *GEIGER*
RECKLESS **EAST OF WEST** **I KILL GIANTS**
THE WALKING DEAD I HATE FAIRYLAND
THE DEPARTMENT OF TRUTH ***SEX CRIMINALS***
KILLADELPHIA
SAVAGE DRAGON BATTLE CHASERS
PRETTY DEADLY **BLACK SCIENCE** THE WICKED + THE DIVINE
MONSTRESS **CHEW** *SWEET PAPRIKA*
GIDEON FALLS
MOONSTRUCK UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY **SKYWARD** OBLIVION SONG
DESCENDER ***PAPER GIRLS*** **THE OLD GUARD**
INVINCIBLE WANTED *BITTER ROOT*
STRAY DOGS WHAT'S THE FURTHEST PLACE FROM HERE **SNOTGIRL**
SAGA *KICK-ASS* **WITCHBLADE**
INKBLOT *ISOLA*
GOD COUNTRY
FIRE POWER **CRIMINAL**
NOCTERRA DIE
HAPPY!
JUPITER'S LEGACY
LITTLE BIRD **RAT QUEENS**
RADIANT BLACK
ICE CREAM MAN
DECORUM ***BITCH PLANET***
DEADLY CLASS
MIDDLEWEST

IMAGE CLASSICS

image®

A BOOK FOR EVERY READER.

IMAGECOMICS.COM

RADIANT BLACK @ Higgans, Costa, Chen, Lafuente & Carey. All rights reserved. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

SPAWN®

THE DARK AGES

6

MAY 2026

ONLY FROM
IMAGECOMICS.COM

Image Comics ® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image comics, Inc. All rights reserved